

COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION

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Illinois Chicago

Columbian Exposition

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

RELICS OF LINCOLN.

THE QUAIN OLD CABIN OF HIS FATHER.

It Has Been Removed to Chicago to Be Placed on Exhibition—Its History and the Tomb of Thomas Lincoln Near By.

1851

From the Chicago Herald.

CHARLESTON, Ill., Aug. 12.—For over fifty years a quaint, rude structure had been standing in the southern part of this county of Coles, in an out-of-the-way spot about a mile and a half from Farmington. Though it was universally known round about here that considerable interest of the patriotic and historical kind attached to this small building, nobody has been making a fuss about it, until about a month ago it was bruited about the country far and near that the old log cabin had been sold and was soon to be torn down and removed to Chicago for purposes of general exhibition. When this became known, the farmers of this and neighboring counties suddenly began to flock to the spot where the tumble-down cabin stood, and multitudes gazed upon it and upon another hallowed spot, a tomb, not far from it, for the last time. The cabin and the grave had suddenly become a veritable mecca, and pilgrimages were made to it in a reverent and patriotic spirit by old and young, rich and poor alike. Thousands saw it.

A TRUE TYPE OF THE EARLY SETTLER.

About the first of this month the old cabin was carefully taken down and as carefully transported to Chicago. A company of speculators have bought the cabin and it will shortly be placed on view there, just as have Libby Prison and many other historical objects that have been brought to Chicago of late. It will not, however, form part of the World's Fair attractions, but will be a separate concern altogether. The old cabin is the one in which Thomas Lincoln, father of the martyr President, lived from 1834 until his death, in 1851. Thomas Lincoln was a true type of the early settler in the West, having tried his fortunes in a dozen different localities. His birthplace was in Kentucky, in the county now known as Hardin. There he married Nancy Hanks in 1806. Two children were born to them; Sarah, in 1807, and Abraham, the rail-splitting youth who subsequently engraved his name so everlastingly on the pages of fame, in 1809. In 1817 the father and his family moved to Indiana. While there his wife died, and Thos. Lincoln, after a time, married again. His second wife was Mrs. Sarah Johnson, a widow with a son, John. About 1830 Thomas Lincoln came to Illinois, first settling along the waters of the Sangamon, in Macon County. Here it was that his son Abe acquired the art of splitting rails. In 1833 Mr. Lincoln came to Coles County, and lived in two or three different places. He first built a cabin on the Muddy, and then ran the old Blakeman mill for awhile in 1834, whereupon he settled down for life on the site where the famous old cabin stood for nearly sixty years. After his death in 1851 John Hall, a relative of the family, occupied the premises until a few years ago, when he moved to another part of the farm and left the old cabin to the owls and bats. James Craig, an enterprising resident of Mattoon, Ill., not long ago bought the historic structure of Mr. Hall for \$1,000, and he in turn sold it to the present owners. It is the intention to rebuild the old homestead exactly as it was during the lifetime of Thomas Lincoln.

A QUEER OLD BUILDING.

The cabin stood on a little knoll about fifty yards from the roadside, facing the south. It was old and battered and rude in material and construction. The winds and rains of over fifty years had beaten upon it. The roof is not the original one, it having been replaced by a new one within the past twenty years. The building really consists of two parts, the older part, was built in 1835 and at first stood in a field about a quarter of a mile distant, but was moved and joined to the other a number of years later. The left

part dates from 1840. Both parts, however, were built with logs which Thomas Lincoln himself cut and hewed and hauled from the river bottom not far away. Both parts of the cabin together contain but two rooms, one for living in and one for sleeping. The left one was the "sitting-room." There Thomas Lincoln lived, and at last died. The great son of this humble but sturdy toiler visited this last dwelling-place of his father but twice before the latter's death, being at that time engaged in practicing law in Springfield. But when Abraham did come he walked all the way from this county town to Farmington, in order to save the stage-coach fare and thus have more money to give his father on arrival. The present owner of the farm, John Hall, who is a relative of the Lincolns, has a number of interesting heirlooms in his possession, such as a quaint, old-fashioned chest of drawers, made by Bob Parcells in Elizabeth, Ky., at a cost of \$40. This was the place in which young Abe's clothes were kept when at home. There is also the old kitchen clock, made by Terry & Son. It no longer tells the time. There is an old axe, the one which Thomas Lincoln bought new and with which he hewed all the timber for his cabin. Its edges are now round and it shows a good deal of wear and hard usage. Then there is the old family Bible, printed in 1799, an old English dictionary and an arithmetic of Abe's. On the fly-leaf of the old family Bible appears the autograph of Thomas Lincoln, the father, and Miss Mary Rodgers of Janesville has in her possession a trust deed signed by Mr. Lincoln and acknowledged before David Dryden.

ABE'S KINDNESS OF HEART.

Many interesting anecdotes are still told of the Lincolns by the people who were once their neighbors. One of the two visits made to his parents here by Abraham Lincoln was during the time when he was a member of the State Legislature. He showed up on the parental farm in a suit of jeans and wearing a plug hat, with his tall, lank, bony form making a tout ensemble not by any means startling in its elegance. A little incident, showing Abraham Lincoln's kindness of heart, occurred once while he and his step-mother were walking along the banks of the Embarras when the family lived at the old mill. They saw a big snake, and Mrs. Lincoln urged the lad to get a stick and kill it. But he said: "No, it enjoys life just as much as we do." This boy was indeed father to the man of whom the poet, James Russell Lowell, whose death has just occurred, once wrote:

Life may be given in many ways,
And loyalty to Truth be sealed
As bravely in the closet as the field,
So bountiful is Fate;
But then to stand beside her,
When craven churls deride her,
To front a lie in arms and not to yield,
This shows, methinks, God's plan
And measure of a stalwart man.
Limbed like the old heroic breeds,
Who stand self-polished on manhood's solid earth,
Not forced to frame excuses for his birth,
Fed from within with all the strength he needs.

Not far away from the site of the old Lincoln cabin is the so-called Gorton Cemetery, near Farmington. Here lie buried both Thos. Lincoln and his second wife, who survived him for eighteen years, until April, 1869. When President Lincoln was on his way to Washington after his first election he visited the grave of his father, then still unmarked, and left orders to have a suitable monument erected. But the cares of office and the exciting times which followed his accession may have driven this matter from his mind again. At any rate, nothing was done until some eleven or twelve years ago a local poet and patriot of some repute, George B. Balch, interested himself in behalf of the matter and arranged for a benefit entertainment with a view to raising funds in order to have the grave of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln adorned with a fine tombstone. The entertainment came off in the fall of '79 in Mattoon, and as a part of the programme Mr. Balch recited a poem of his own, composed for the occasion. It read as follows:

In a low, sweet vale by a murmuring rill
The pioneer's ashes are sleeping,
Where the cold marble shafts, so lonely and still,
In silence their vigils are keeping.

On their sad, lonely faces are words of fame,
But none of them speak of his glory;
When the pioneer died, his age and his name,
No monument whispered the story.

No myrtle, no ivy, nor hyacinth, blows
O'er the lonely place where they laid him;
No cedar nor holly nor almond tree grows
Near the plebeian's grave to shade him.

Sweet evergreens wave over many a grave;
O'er some bow the sad weeping willow;
But no willow tree bows nor evergreens wave
Where the pioneer sleeps on his pillow.

While some are inhumed with the honor of state,
And placed beneath temples to molder,
The grave of the father of Lincoln the great
Is known by a hillock and bowlder.

Let him take his long sleep and quietly rest,
With naught to disturb or awake him;
When the angels shall come to gather the blest
To Abraham's bosom they'll take him.

However, the financial reward reaped by this entertainment was not large enough (netting only \$34) to carry out the project in hand, and the facts coming to the knowledge of Robert Lincoln, the grandson of Thomas Lincoln, the latter supplied the balance of the money needed. The monument, a fine shaft of Italian marble, was cut by Thomas Donnell, a marble dealer of Mattoon, at a cost of \$150. It is nearly 10 feet high, and is the handsomest tombstone in the cemetery.

THE OLD CABIN

WHERE ABRAHAM LINCOLN SPENT THE
DAYS OF HIS YOUTH

To Be Removed to the Chicago Fair—
Something of Lincoln's Life
There—How He Came
to Leave It.

Special Correspondence of The Republic.

CHARLESTON, Ill., July 24.—One of the most interesting of all the sights to be seen at the World's Fair in Chicago, at least to Americans, will be a dilapidated log cabin which now stands near Farmington, a country hamlet ten or twelve miles southeast of this place. This hut was once the place of abode of Abraham Lincoln, the martyr President of the United States.

It was in the callowest days of his life that the emancipator laid his head to rest under the old roof which once covered this building. That roof has been succeeded by many others of the clapboard variety, but the logs are identically those of half a century ago. They are chinked together in the old-fashioned way which marked the pioneer residence then and now. The house is in no way different from the hundreds of other log cabins to be found in the Ambraw bottoms, but it has a history which is unique and sets it apart from others of its kind. It is safe to say that among all the articles to be seen in the Columbian Exposition none will excite greater interest and curiosity among Americans, and particularly Illinoisans, than this.

"THE OLD LOG HOUSE."

The logs of the old building are to be taken apart and moved to Chicago within a few weeks. There they will be re-erected on the ground to be occupied by the Illinois exhibit and remain standing there until the exposition is closed. The log house will not be slightly, but it will have an historical value and importance which will compensate for its want of grace and comeliness.

In the years Lincoln spent in this house he was at his worst—tall, angular and awkward, loose-jointed and stoop-shouldered, a type of that dyspeptic-looking youth so often to be met in the backwoods in the days before the war. These were the days of rail-splitting and flatboating. He had not yet gone to Sangamon County, had not risen to the dignity of clerk in that country store at Salem, and had never dreamed of becoming a lawyer. If he had, no one had ever heard him declare the ambition. This cabin, humble and unpretentious as it was, was then a proper part of his life—neither better nor worse than he was himself. In a drive of a day through the Ambraw timbers you can find a score of young men who are doubtless physical prototypes of the Lincoln of that day. Some of them are still splitting rails. If flatboating was not out of date some of them would doubtless go flatboating. But few of them, judging them from their looks and conversation, would ever become Presidents. And if a stranger, passing through this section during the '30s, had been asked to pick out Presidential timber, Abraham Lincoln would probably have been his last choice.

THE YOUNG LINCOLN.

According to the testimony of Uncle Dennis Hanks, a near relative of the ex-President, Lincoln was as bashful as he was awkward. He was a good hand at log-rolling, but a poor one at singing-schools, corn shuckings or other festal or social occasions where he would be brought in contact with the other sex. He outgrew this timidity in later years, however, and after he had reached the dignity of store-keeper at Salem became one of the beaux of the neighborhood. In later years he became a rival, and a successful one, of such gallant gentlemen as Shields and Douglas. It was about a woman that Lincoln and Shields came so near fighting the broadsword duel on Alton Island. All of these events came in the years after a comparative success had increased Lincoln's confidence in himself and given him an opinion of his own claims and merits which was not opposed to the advancement of his suit.

At Farmington, however, he was shy and retiring in the presence of what was then and still is called in Ambraw bottom dialect "the gals." Anyone who has ever seen a strapping country boy suffering all the tortures of the damned while pinned to a chair in some bunolio company which includes one or more of the fair sex, and whose lobster-red face and sprawling bands betray his agonies, can have a pretty good idea of what Lincoln was in his Farmington days. "The bashfullest boy that ever lived," said Uncle Dennis Hanks. And he knew him well.

IT WILL NEVER RETURN.

It is not likely the building will ever be returned to the spot where it was first erected and where it has stood during more than half a century of storm or sunshine. Indeed, it is said to be understood that the purchasers are to continue in possession after the Exposition is over. Somebody, doubtless, will realize a small fortune out of the relic by placing it on exhibition in the cities of the country, or even reducing the logs to chips and selling the chips as souvenirs. All Lincoln relics have a value far in excess of that of any other, and their value is augmented year by year as the fame of the dead increases and new floods of light are being thrown into the dark places of that tremendous period of history in which he bore such a great part.

SEEKING THE WORLD.

Nearly all the caravans skip over that part of Lincoln's life which was spent at Farmington, or, at best, give it but passing notice. It is true that it was not until after his removal to Sangamon County that Lincoln became assertive enough to make his biography at all interesting. It was here, however, that the real foundations of his character were laid. Here, the boy who was father to the man lived and moved and went his lonesome and clumsy way. He was not ostracised, but isolated. He made a voluntary hermit of himself so far as his relations with the other sex were concerned—voluntarily excluding himself from female society. It was altogether his own fault, as any of the buxom country lasses would willingly have smiled upon the bashful boy, for women, the world over, when virtuous, have sympathy and regard for the man or boy who testifies, by his shyness and bashfulness in their presence, his sense of their superior charms. They take it as a compliment and he is the most accomplished one who can best simulate it.

Lincoln, however, was only the child of Nature. The more encouragement he received the more shy and retiring he became. "Abe might have got the best gal among all 'em," says Uncle Dennis. And he knows. It was from here that Lincoln went to flatboating. Farmington is not so very far from the Wabash, down which, from Terre Haute, Vincennes and other points along the classic stream fleets of flatboats used to depart for points below on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. Lincoln did not remain a flatboatman for any length of time. The forces which were to impel him forward toward his destiny were beginning to work. He had always had a thirst for knowledge. Part of the reason for his seclusion of himself was to secure opportunity for study. Finally it dawned upon him that a man, to do anything, must shake the dust of Farmington off him. He wanted to see more of the world. He took the flatboat trip to get a view of it. The experience seems to have given him a large degree of self-confidence and opened up new possibilities of life to him.

HE NEVER CAME BACK.

He did not keep to the water long, but he never returned to the Farmington cabin. The places which had known him once were to know him no more forever. It seems that after his transplantation to a larger and wider field of usefulness, he never returned. He wrote frequently to his brothers, and other relatives in the vicinity, but never came back to visit the scenes of his earlier life. Probably they were associated, in his mind, with too much of the pathetic and sorrowful to make a visit to them otherwise than painful to him. Here his step-mother, Nancy Hanks that was before her marriage to Lincoln's father, died and was buried. This woman was next to his own mother the best friend Lincoln ever met. She was much more a parent to him than the indolent and dissolute man who was responsible for his existence. Her grave, grass-grown and overrun, will be pointed out in the jumble of graves, some of them ornamented with headstones, which is called by courtesy a "graveyard."

WHAT IT IS.

Farmington is one of innumerable places like it in the timber lands of the Wabash and Ambraw bottoms. It is now just what it was when the tall, ungainly youth called Abe Lincoln was a citizen there. No boom has come. There has been no advance in the price of corner lots. A store and a hitching-post are now, as they were then, the principal features of the landscape. The traveller who comes along the dusty road can find any number of old men who will willingly tell him all they know, and don't know, about Lincoln, and who will mourn the departure of the old log house as those who are without hope.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S CABIN.

The Logs with Which It Was Built Lie Neglected in a Chicago Alley.
Special Dispatch to the Globe-Democrat.

CHICAGO, ILL., February 24.—In the alley between Michigan and Wabash avenues, near Fourteenth street, is a pile of old logs. It has been there nearly two years, uncared for and unprotected. Not a dozen persons in Chicago knew the real value of that log pile, but if it were generally known that almost every one of the logs was split by an ax in the hands of Abraham Lincoln, there probably would be little left to show as a whole of the famous log cabin built in 1830 by Lincoln and his father. For years this cabin served the Lincoln family protection from storms and early pioneer danger. Now that it is known, steps may be taken for its preservation as one of the most valuable mementoes of the "rail-splitter."

The project of bringing the log cabin to Chicago was a commercial one. Because Libby Prison was brought here and was successful as an exhibit, the idea spread that there were many other historical structures that would be equally attractive, so John Brown fort at Harper's Ferry was torn from its home and set up as a show. It was a failure. Then an Uncle Tom's cabin was sprung on the city, and it served a fate as bad as that of the fort. Before these failures a party of Chicagoans headed by George M. Bogue came to the conclusion that Lincoln's old log cabin home would put thousands of dollars in their pockets during the World's Fair season. They bought the structure for \$10,000, and sent George O. Gamsey down to Coles County, Ill., to take the cabin down and ship it to Chicago. He performed the work and marked the logs with a series of numbers and letters, so that there would be no trouble in putting it in the original form. Two years ago the material reached Chicago, but before a satisfactory site was secured the backers of the enterprise weakened and the structure was never placed on exhibition. In the meantime the logs were stacked in a pile back of the John Brown fort building and there they are to-day.

CONSOLIDATED
PRESS CLIPPING
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CHICAGO, U.S.A.
431 SO. DEARBORN ST.
MAIN OFFICE

BALTIMORE SPA N Y JOURNAL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1931.

LINCOLN'S CABIN SAVED
CHICAGO, Ill., Feb. 18 (UP)—Re-
storation of Abraham Lincoln's Il-
linois log cabin to its original site in
Cole County, as part of a Lincoln
shrine, is planned by officers of the
Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Associa-
tion, which, in the '90's brought the
cabin to Chicago for exhibition pur-
poses.

Chicago Woman, 80, Refuses to Reveal "Lost" Log Cabin Built by Lincoln

Structure Erected in 1831 Disappeared From World
Fairgrounds Where It Was Exhibited in 1893.

MATTOON, Ill., Feb. 11.—(P)—Only one person living today claims to know what became of an ancient log cabin built near here by Abraham Lincoln for his father and step-mother more than one hundred years ago.

She is Mrs. Eleanor Gridley of Chicago, and she will not tell.

The martyred President, whose birthday anniversary will be observed tomorrow, built the cabin near Farmington, ten miles southeast of here, in 1831 when he was 22 years old.

Taken During Night.

It stood there until 1891, when a Lincoln society in Chicago, of which Mrs. Gridley was secretary, purchased it for \$20,000 and brought it

to Chicago to be exhibited at the 1893 world's fair.

For several weeks it was shown to visitors for a 25-cent fee. Just before the fair opened the cabin disappeared overnight. No one ever explained its removal. Mrs. Gridley, who is past 80 years old, has told Clarence W. Bell of Mattoon, a relative of the Lincoln family, that she knew what became of the cabin, but was saving the secret for a book she hoped to publish.

Had Cabin Destroyed, Report.

Rumor had it that Robert Lincoln, son of the President, hired men to seize the cabin by night and destroy it, objecting to the notoriety. He was an official of the Pullman Car Company here at that time.

Mrs. Gridley, however, knew the

cabin well. She lived in it for two months while interviewing residents of the neighborhood for material for her biography of Lincoln, "From Log Cabin to White House."

Bell's grandfather, Elisha Linder, was a fourth cousin of Lincoln. His grandmother, Hannah Radley Sawye, was a niece of Lincoln's stepmother, Sarah Bush Lincoln.

21 of 46 Relatives in County.

Twenty-one of the forty-six living relatives of Lincoln, his father, his mother and his stepmother, live in Coles county here, Bell said today. The Lincolns stopped at Linder's home in Old Paradise, near here, on their way from Indiana to Illinois in 1830. When they abandoned their home in Macon county the next year and returned to Indiana, they visited at Old Paradise again. The place is often referred to as Wabash Point.

It was Elisha Linder, Bell said, who persuaded Thomas Lincoln to change his mind about returning to Indiana and take a squatter's claim in Buck Grove, five miles southeast of the present city of Mattoon.

MATTOON, Ill. — Mrs. Eleanor Gridley of Chicago knows but she won't tell—not yet. The ancient log cabin built by Abraham Lincoln for his father and mother more than 100 years ago disappeared from the World's Fair in 1893. Only Mrs. Gridley knows where it is. She's saving the secret for a book.

One Person Knows Hiding Place of Cabin Built by Lincoln in 1831

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Disappears Overnight

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Mrs. Gridley Lived in Cabin

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KEEPS SECRET OF LINCOLN LOG CABIN

Clare Plan Dealer
2/12/32
Illinois Woman Claims to

Know What Became of
House "Abe" Built.

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LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor.
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No. 216

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

May 29, 1933

LINCOLN LOG CABINS

A great world's fair in America would be incomplete without one or more Lincoln cabins on display. Although there is no original home of the Lincolns being shown at the Century of Progress Exposition, there are several replicas of buildings associated with the life of the president. The opening of the exhibition invites a brief review of the Lincoln cabins which have become famous by having often been reproduced in replica and made familiar by photographic copies.

Cabins Occupied by Abraham Lincoln

Lincoln Birthplace Cabin

The most famous of all the Lincoln log cabins is the one preserved in the memorial building at Hodgenville, Kentucky. It is doubtful if any other birthplace home in the country has become so universally known and recognized by all classes of people as has the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born.

The itinerary of this cabin was a long one and its removal from place to place began shortly after Lincoln was elected to the presidency. An admirer of Lincoln living about one mile north of the birthplace farm acquired the famous cabin early in the sixties and moved it to his own farm property where it served for a time as a school house. Someone saw the show value of the old pile of logs, purchased it, and exhibited it at the Tennessee Centennial at Nashville in 1894. Central Park, New York, was the next site chosen for its reconstruction and the one hundred and forty-three logs, properly marked and numbered, were assembled there.

The preliminary announcements and illustrative data with reference to the Lincoln cabin exhibited at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis is rather confusing if an identification is attempted from the sources available. One press report states it was "the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born"; another version of the story represents it as being "the old log cabin he lived in when a child from 1813 to 1816," and an illustrated publication of the fair shows a likeness of the Coles County, Illinois, cabin as the one being exhibited.

We next find the Lincoln cabin stored away in Stamford, Connecticut, after having made an extensive itinerary about the country. While in storage it was acquired by the Lincoln Farm Association and removed to New York for safer storage facilities.

On Wednesday, June 6, 1906, it began its famous trip back to Kentucky to be the feature attraction for the Kentucky Old Home Week celebration at Louisville. The Governor of the state detailed a detachment of five men from the militia to escort the cabin from New York to Kentucky. Its trans-

portation was provided by the Pennsylvania Railroad and the car on which it was moved was beautifully decorated. At Philadelphia, Baltimore, Harrisburg, Pittsburgh, Columbus, and Indianapolis it was received by the mayors of the respective cities and elaborate ceremonies were conducted at each place. Upon arrival at Louisville a program was arranged in its honor and it was displayed at Central Park.

After the celebration at Louisville it went into storage there until 1909 when it was shipped to Hodgenville and placed on the original site for the centennial celebration of Lincoln's birth at which time the cornerstone of the memorial building was laid. Back

CENTURY OF PROGRESS

Replicas of Buildings Associated with Lincoln

- Birthplace cabin
- Indiana cabin
- New Salem Store
- Rutledge Tavern
- Room in Springfield Home
- Chicago Wigwam
Lincoln Group next to Fort Dearborn
- Indiana cabin
Horticultural Exhibit
- New Salem Store
Food Exhibit
- Room in Springfield Home
Illinois Host Building

to Louisville it went after the celebration to go into storage again and it remained there until 1911 when it was finally rebuilt within the Lincoln Memorial Building on the birthplace farm where it will remain until it crumbles away.

The Lincoln Childhood Cabin

Abraham Lincoln's second home was a cabin on Knob Creek about ten miles north of the birthplace cabin. The Lincolns occupied this cabin from 1811 to 1816. In 1895 a correspondent of a newspaper wrote about the Knob Creek cabin as follows: "Nothing is left of the old cabin but part of the great stone fireplace. A number of the logs that made up the poor home have been used by Charles Rapier, the present owner of the farm, in building a stable."

The Cabin of Lincoln's Youth

Many confusing stories are in circulation about the disposition of the cabin occupied by the Lincolns in Indiana. Very fortunately several pictures of the cabin were taken while it

was still standing. It was sold by the owners of the Lincoln farm in 1871 and at that time still occupied the original site. There seems to be no dependable evidence as to just what became of this old cabin after it was taken down by a man in Evansville who had purchased it.

The Macon County, Illinois Cabin

This is the last of the cabin homes in which Abraham Lincoln lived with his people, and he resided in it but a very short time. This cabin, more often associated with John Hanks who helped to build it, had an extensive itinerary arranged for it. It was exhibited on Boston Common from July 15 to September 9, 1865, and at Barnum's Museum, New York City, from September 18 until the last of October, the same year. It is said to have been lost at sea while enroute to England.

Cabins Associated with Lincoln's Father

The Lincoln Marriage Cabin

Many Washington County, Kentucky, citizens still believe that Abraham Lincoln was born in the same cabin in which his parents were married, although the residence of the Lincolns in Hardin County in 1809 is established by documents. The cabin in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married is now enshrined in a memorial building at Harrodsburg, Kentucky, at least twenty miles from its original site. It is known as the Lincoln marriage cabin.

The Sarah Johnston Cabin

Many of the early biographies show the picture of a tumble down log shed on Race Street in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln's never occupied this cabin but it was the home of the widow Johnston previous to her marriage to Thomas Lincoln in 1819. What became of this cabin we do not know although one old citizen says it was shipped away for exhibition purposes.

The Coles County, Illinois Cabin

This cabin of Thomas Lincoln so often confused with the cabin homes of Abraham Lincoln was brought to Chicago by the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin Association for exhibition at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. It was rebuilt in the north annex of the old Exposition Building on the lake front.

Many years ago the following notice appeared in a Chicago paper:

"Personal—Public notice is hereby given to owners and others who may claim an interest in the 'Abraham Lincoln cabin' to remove the same from the premises of Libby Prison War Museum, on Wabash Ave., or it will be sold to pay charges or donated to some historical or other society." According to Mr. Gunther this was the Coles County cabin. Part of it at least was destroyed along with Uncle Tom's Cabin which was stored with it.

LINCOLN'S CABIN HERE.

Locked Up in a Freight Car in Illinois Central Yards.

Many people will be interested in knowing that somewhere in the Illinois Central freight yards, stowed away in an old box-car, is the log cabin in which Abraham Lincoln spent his boyhood.

The cabin was brought in sections from Coles county where it has been standing for over half a century and will be put together just as soon as a suitable site can be found, when it will become one of the permanent exhibits of the city. The cabin has become the property of the Abraham Lincoln association, comprising George M. Bogue, E. F. Getchell, Willard F. Block, Jason H. Shepard, William B. Pettit, F. R. Southmayd, John Barton Payne, Norah Gridley and Nelson Stelle.

"Yes, the cabin is here, all right," said Secretary Stelle this morning. "It weighs about twenty tons and is 36 by 18 feet in size. Just as soon as we can secure a suitable site the cabin will be put together."

If the newspaper cuts of the log cabin that Abe Lincoln built are correct likenesses a great commonwealth which reveres the martyr's memory ought to see that the sorry relic never exposed to the public eye. It is about as bad a piece of domiciliary architecture as one could find. The end lurches away like a half-filled meal-sack; the roof is swarthy-backed and the door is shockingly out of plumb. This cabin was built in 1831, when Mr. Lincoln was quite a youth and should certainly have done much better. The gentlemen who purpose exhibiting this structure say they hope to remind the world of the humble beginning of a great man. They will probably succeed merely in reminding the world that a man who made a great president couldn't build cabins. A more considerate and enlightened sentiment would have dictated the relegating of this dizzy cabin to that gentle oblivion which is permitted to enshroud the other youthful follies and failures of our great men.

